

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 13327 091720Z

62

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /092 W

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R 091707Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0997

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T BONN 13327

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: FRENCH POSITION ON DATA

REFS: (A) STATE 194956 DTG 060026Z AUG 76

(B) USNATO 4399 DTG 061705Z AUG 76

(C) STATE 193312 DTG 042205Z AUG 76

1. AS INSTRUCTED REF A, WE INFORMED GESCHER (RUTH WAS ON VACATION) OF THE U.S. APPROACH TO THE FRENCH IN WASHINGTON. GESCHER EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE U.S. EFFORT TO SUPPORT THE PREVIOUS BRITISH AND GERMAN APPROACHES.

2. IN A SHORT DISCUSSION OF THE FRENCH PROBLEM, GESCHER SAID THAT, IN HIS VIEW, IT WOULD BE ILLOGICAL TO EXCLUDE FRENCH FORCES FROM THE REVISED DATA (SEE REF B FOR USNATO'S VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE). THIS VIEW REPRESENTED GESCHER'S REACTION TO THOMSON'S SUGGESTION TO LEPRETTE

SECRET

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PAGE 02 BONN 13327 091720Z

THAT THE ALLIES COULD BE FLEXIBLE IN MEETING FRENCH

WISHES ON THE DATA BASE (REF C). GESCHER EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD PRESS THE ARGUMENT WITH THE FRENCH THAT THEY WILL HAVE A PRIVILEGED POSITION UNDER THE COMMON COMBINED CEILING, A POSITION NOT SHARED BY THE ALLIED DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. FOR EXAMPLE, THOSE ALLIES WOULD HAVE TO UNDERTAKE MULTILATERAL CONSULTATIONS TO SECURE AGREEMENT PRIOR TO AUGMENTING OR DECREASING THEIR RESPECTIVE FORCE LEVELS. THE FRENCH, OF COURSE, WOULD NOT BE FACED WITH SUCH A SITUATION.

3. GESCHER SAID HE HAD NOT YET GIVEN UP HOPE THAT THE FRENCH WILL REASSESS THEIR CURRENT STANCE. HE NOTED THAT FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES HAD RECENTLY BEEN RATHER NEGATIVE TOWARD EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ISSUES, AND THAT THE FRENCH COULD ILL AFFORD TO BE PERCEIVED AS ANTI-EUROPEAN IN OTHER POLICY AREAS AS WELL. GESCHER CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT RUTH STILL PLANNED TO MEET WITH MISTRAL AGAIN AT THE END OF THE MONTH, PERHAPS THIS TIME IN BONN.
HILLENBRAND

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